# EXPERIMENTAL FISHING TO DETERMINE DISTRIBUTION OF SALMON IN THE NORTH PACIFIC OCEAN, 1955

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# United States Department of the Interior, Fred A. Seaton, Secretary Fish and Wildlife Service

# EXPERIMENTAL FISHING TO DETERMINE DISTRIBUTION OF SALMON IN THE NORTH PACIFIC OCEAN, 1955

By

Donald E. Powell Fishery Methods and Equipment Specialist

and

Alvin E. Peterson Fishery Research Biologist

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### ABSTRACT

Distribution of salmon on the high seas in the North Pacific Ocean was investigated by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service during the summer and early fall of 1955. Three vessels conducted extensive gill-net operations over a 3-1/2 month period in the Gulf of Alaska and in the offshore waters south of the Aleutian Islands and the Alaska Peninsula, with a limited amount of fishing off the coasts of Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia. Results showed that the several species of North American salmon and the steelhead trout were widely distributed in the open ocean at that time of year and could be sampled readily with surface gill nets.

Salmon were caught at all stations occupied from off northern Vancouver Island across the Gulf of Alaska as far west as Unalaska Island. Catches farther west and in more southerly waters revealed an apparent southern limit for high-seas salmon at about 47° N. latitude in the area of major operation. South of this line in the warmer waters albacore replaced salmon in the gill-net catches.

Length measurements of all salmon were taken aboard the vessels and are presented graphically according to species and by mesh size.

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Figure 1. -- The Fish and Wildlife Service's exploratory fishing vessel MV. John N. Cobb.

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#### INTRODUCTION

As a part of the research program requested by the International North Pacific Fisheries Commission, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service undertook in the summer and early fall of 1955 a broad study of the high-seas distribution of salmon in the North Pacific Ocean. Three vessels participated in this work, the Service's own research vessel John N. Cobb and the chartered halibut schooner-type vessels Mitkof and Paragon.

The aims of this investigation were to gain knowledge of the range and distribution of salmon in the eastern and central North Pacific Ocean and to collect samples of salmon throughout their range for morphological and physiological racial analysis. Oceanographic data were also collected simultaneously with the fishing operations for analysis by the Department of Oceanography, University of Washington. Ocean tagging on a minor scale was conducted by the Cobb only, with the main tagging program being carried out by the Fisheries Research Institute, University of Washington. The ultimate objective of all this work is to determine the extent of intermingling between Asian and North American stocks of salmon and to separate, if possible, the stocks of different continental origin in the high-seas fishing areas. Results are presented in preliminary form to make the data available until detailed biometric analysis now in progress, is completed.

#### DESCRIPTION OF VESSELS

Specifications for the exploratory fishing vessel John N. Cobb, 78 net tons, are as follows:

Length overall	93'	5-1/4"
Length, waterline	85'	0''
Beam over guards	25'	6-3/4"
Beam, molded	24'	6''
Depth, molded	12'	7''
Draft, molded (mean load)	8'	6"
Draft over keel (mean load)	9'	6''

Bunkers, Diesel fuell	2,000 gals.
Capacity, fresh water	6,000 gals.
Cruising speed	10 knots
Maximum speed	10.8 knots
Number of bunks	14

The two chartered schooner-type vessels were of the following specifications:

VesselPARAGON
Total length 72 feet 90 feet
Keel length 66' I" 80 feet
Tonnage 42 tons 64 tons
Breadth 18' 4" 19' 5"
Draft 9'(empty) 9'(empty)
Cruising speed 9 knots 8.5 knots
Maximum speed 9.5 knots 9 knots
Engine & horsepower.Fairbanks, 200H.P.Enter-
prise, 165H.P.
Number of bunks12

#### GILL NET CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION

The John N. Cobb fished with four sizes of nylon gill nets: 3-1/4-inch, 4-1/2-inch, 5-1/4-inch, and 6-inch stretched mesh measure. The nets were constructed to fish shallow (fig. 4) from the surface to about 20 feet deep. Past experience by the Cobb in 1953 (Schaefers and Fukuhara, 1954) and reports from the Japanese salmon fleet (Fukuhara, 1953) indicated that most salmon were caught close to the surface on the high seas.

The nets were made up in 50-fathom shackles, and on most sets either 20 shackles (1,000 fathoms) or 30 shackles (1,500 fathoms) were lashed together and fished in a string. A typical 20-shackle set was made up of two shackles of 3-1/4-inch mesh, five shackles of 4-1/2-inch mesh, 11 shackles of 5-1/4-inch mesh and two shackles of 6-inch mesh, arranged randomly. Lesser amounts of gear were used early in the season and during poor weather on several sets. A total of 1,018 shackles were fished during the trip: 126 shackles of 3-1/4-inch mesh, 249 shackles of 4-1/2-inch mesh, 565 shackles of 5-1/4-inch mesh, and 78 shackles of 6-inch mesh.

Figure 2. -- Salmon charter vessel Mitkof.

Figure 3. -- Salmon charter vessel Paragon.

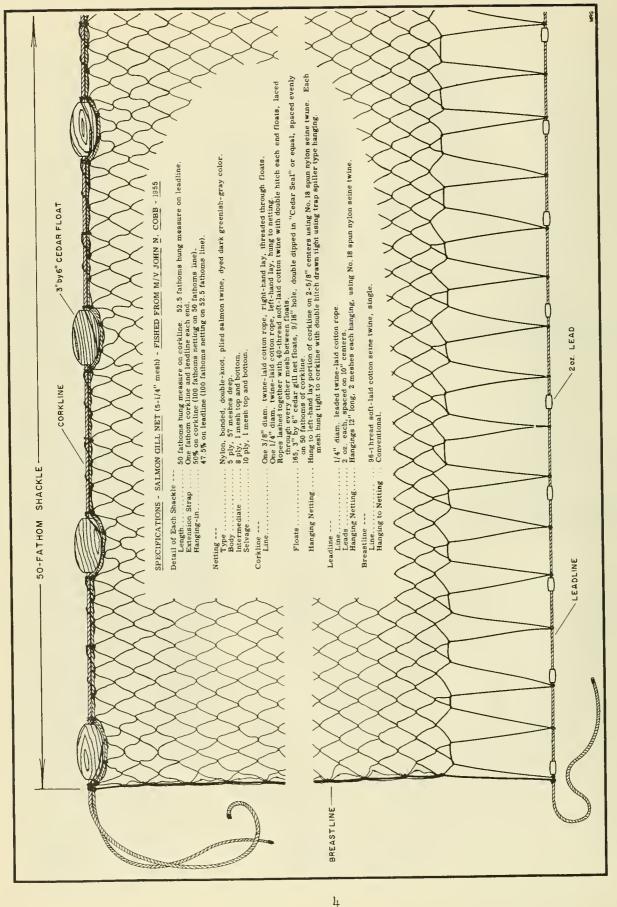


Figure 4. -- Diagram of salmon gill net fished from the John N. Cobb

Double corklines, one right-hand lay and one left-hand lay to prevent twisting, were used on all gill nets. Each salvage mesh was lashed tightly to one corkline with a double hitch to minimize chafing of the salvage caused by wave action on the open ocean. Otherwise, the nets were hung essentially according to the conventional manner used in the salmon fishery. Details of the 5-1/4-inch nets are given in figure 4.

With the exception of three experimental daytime sets, the nets were fished at night, being set in the evening and hauled just after daybreak. The nets were set downwind over the stern of the boat at a speed of about 4 knots. A lighted flagpole was tied to each end of the string. Seven hundred feet of 4-1/4-inch circumference lubricated-core rope was attached with a bridle to the last shackle to go overboard, and was then made fast to the bow of the vessel at the lee end of the nets. The vessel thus held on to the gear all night while drifting.

Nylon-rope, 15/16-inch diameter, was lashed along the corklines of the first eight shackles of nets nearest the vessel to relieve strain from the corklines while hauling. The gear was hauled over a shark roller mounted on the starboard rail near the bow of the John N. Cobb. Power for hauling was transmitted through a rubberized sheave attached to the main anchor winch. Fish were removed on a canvas-covered iron grating between the bow roller and the anchor winch. Two men then cleared the web and pulled it to the stern where it was piled in the bin in readiness for the next set.

Hauling time averaged about five minutes per shackle, increasing proportionately to the number of fish in the net. The occasional mackerel shark caused considerable gear damage and delay in hauling. Jack mackerel were extremely difficult to remove from the nets, but most of the pomfret could be shaken out with no trouble. The nets were mended daily on the John N. Cobb, and they were completely overhauled several times during the trip on brief port calls.

The <u>Mitkof</u> and the <u>Paragon</u> fished with four different mesh sizes of nylon gill nets,

2-1/4-inch, 3-1/4-inch, 4-1/2-inch, and 5-1/4-inch stretched mesh measure. Construction of the nets was the same as for the John N. Cobb, as shown in figure 4.

Twelve 50-fathom shackles of gill net were used for each set by the Mitkof and the Paragon, and the numbers of shackles of each mesh size used on every set were two shackles of 2-1/4-inch mesh, two shackles of 3-1/4-inch, two shackles of 4-1/2-inch and six shackles of 5-1/4-inch mesh. A standard arrangement of the various mesh sizes in the net was used for all sets, with the 5-1/4-inch mesh alternating with the smaller mesh sizes throughout the net.

In the fishing operations of both the Mitkof and the Paragon, nylon rope, 15/16-inch diameter, was lashed along the corklines for 1/4 to 1/2 of the net, and about 200 fathoms of manila line was fastened to the bridle from the vessel during the fishing. A flagpole with a light was tied to each end of the net during fishing, and the vessel remained attached to the net at all times. All sets by the Mitkof and Paragon were overnight sets.

The same system for setting and hauling the gill nets was used by both schooner-type vessels. The net was set from the stern of the vessel, paying out while the vessel proceeded ahead at slow speed for a period of 15 to 20 minutes (fig. 8). The net was set with the wind, so that when it was completely out, the vessel could remain secured to the lee end.

The net was hauled in from the starboard side of the vessel over a roller attached to the guard rail and over a table (where the fish were removed) by means of a mechanically driven "gurdy" (fig. 9). This operation took place in the well-deck forward of the pilot house, and from there the net was passed along the deck to the stern where it was re-piled in preparation for the next set. The hauling operation required up to two hours per set for both the Mitkof and the Paragon.

Upon completion of hauling, measurements and scale samples were taken from each salmon caught (fig. 11). On all three vessels a numbered metal strap tag was attached to the gill cover of each salmon for identification, and the fish were then frozen for further racial studies at the laboratory.



Figure 5.--Salmon were removed from the gill nets just aft of the roller on the bow of the John N. Cobb.



Figure 6.--After coming around the sheave on the anchor winch (to the left of the photo) the gill nets were cleared on their way to the stern of the John N. Cobb.



Figure 7.--The gill nets were piled in the stern bin of the  $\underline{\text{John N. Cobb}}$  in preparation for the next set.



Figure 8.--Clearing gill nets during setting from the after-deck of the Mitkof.



Figure 9.--Hauling gill nets aboard the Mitkof.



Figure 10.--Picking up marker buoy during hauling operations on the  $$\underline{\text{Mitkof}}$$  .



Figure 11.--Measuring and taking scales from salmon caught in gill nets on the  $\underline{\text{Mitkof}}$ .



Figure 12.--Live salmon were placed in a small live box near the bow of the John N. Cobb, and those that survived were tagged and released.

# FISHING RESULTS John N. Cobb

Fifty gill-net stations were occupied by the John N. Cobb from June 25 to September 13 in the offshore waters extending from off northern Vancouver Island northward to southeastern Alaska and across the Gulf of Alaska as far west as Unalaska Island (fig. 13). Salmon were caught in the gill nets at each station, all five species being taken in a number of the sets.

Total gill-net catch of salmon for the 50 sets was 2,484, an average of 49 salmon per set. Individual catches ranged from 1 to 168 salmon. The catch included 1,248 chums, 639 pinks, 367 reds, 211 silvers, and 19 kings. Salmon-trolling gear fished in the vicinity of five gill-net stations caught 18 silvers, 3 pinks, and 1 king. In addition to salmon, the gill nets caught 55 steelhead trout and various numbers of pomfret, jack mackerel, dogfish, mackerel shark, and a few ragfish and squid. Tables 1 and 1a present the complete fishing log of the John N. Cobb, including dates, positions, catches by species, and other pertinent data.

Several stations in the Gulf of Alaska were fished a second time after an interval of about 2 months to compare catch results over a period of time. To compare effectiveness of the gill nets in day and night fishing, 3 sets were made in the daytime. The daytime sets each caught salmon, but the catch in each instance was less than the catches made in the same place at night.

#### Catch by species and mesh size

Chum salmon were most abundant in the gill-net catch of the John N. Cobb, comprising slightly over 50 percent of the total (table 2). Pinks were next most abundant, at 25.7 percent. Kings were least numerous, forming less than l percent of the catch. Species composition varied with dates and areas fished, as can be seen in the fishing log and in table 5. At no time were any jumpers or other surface signs of salmon seen in the offshore waters, and all gillnet sets were made "blind".

Table 2 also shows the catch by species

inch mesh was most effective, catching 3.31 salmon per shackle. Next most effective mesh size was 5-1/4-inch, with an average catch of 2.45 per shackle. The 3-1/4-inch nets were least effective, 1.2 salmon per shackle, while the 6-inch nets were slightly higher at 1.58 salmon per shackle. Average catch for the 1,018 fifty-fathom shackles fished was 2,44 salmon per shackle.

Each of the net sizes was selective to a degree in sizes of fish caught (fig. 16). This selection also affected the catch of some species for each mesh size. For instance, more reds and chums were taken in the smaller 3-1/4-inch nets than any of the other species, because small, immature individuals were more abundant in these two species than the others. Chums occurred most often in the 4-1/2-inch and 5-1/4inch mesh. No small, immature pinks were caught. The number of kings taken was too small for significant comparison.

### Depth of Salmon

A record was kept of the depth in the net at which the salmon were enmeshed (table 3). From these observations it is apparent that the salmon spend much of their time in the offshore waters very near the surface.

The nets were constructed to fish from the surface to a depth of approximately 20 feet. For purposes of recording depth of the salmon, the nets were arbitrarily divided into three parts, and the position of each salmon caught was recorded as in the "upper", "middle", or "lower" third of the net. In recording these data the observer merely made a quick judgment of the position of each fish as the net came near the vessel, as it approached the roller, or as the fish were being removed. Thus, there is some chance for error on those fish which were near the border lines of "upper", "middle", or "lower".

Table 3 shows that over half (53 percent) of the salmon caught by the John N. Cobb were recorded in the upper one-third of the nets, or within 7 feet of the surface. In the lower onethird there was a higher percentage of kings and reds than of the other 3 species, and conversely, kings and reds had lower percentages than the for each of the four sizes of gill nets. The 4-1/2- others in the upper part of the nets. The apparent

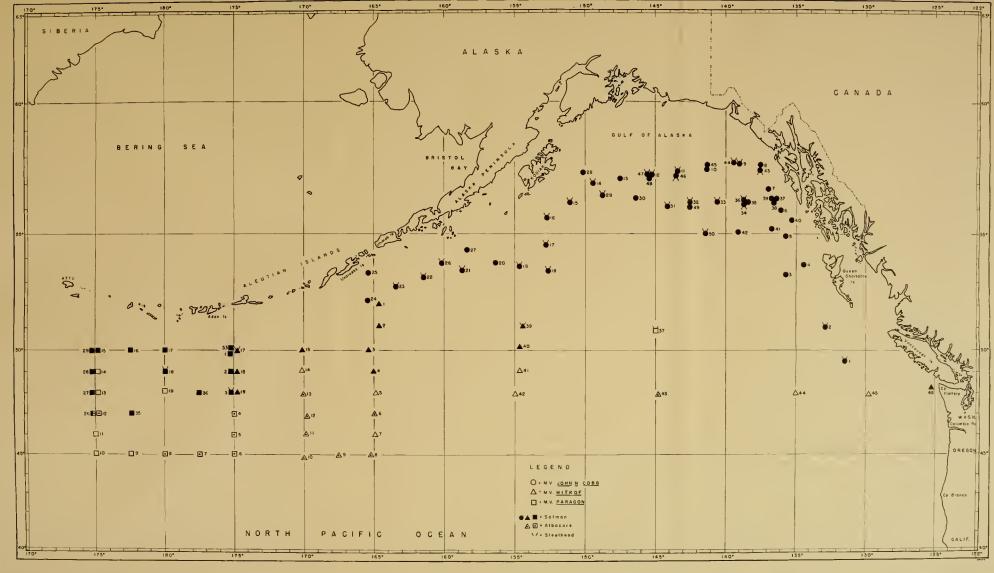


Figure 13.--Area covered by the three salmon-research vessels, showing fishing stations, numbered chronologically, and catch distribution.



·d)		AMULUSIUMA CALUCIA	1 Jack mmokerel	1 steelhead, 54 jack mackerel, 28 pomfret	l mackerel shark, 43 pomfret, 2 brown ragilsh	1	3 mackerel shark, 20 pomfret, 2 brown ragfish	17 pomfret	2 mackerel shark, 25 jack mackeral,56 pomfret,1 brown ragitah	l mackers! shark, 36 jack mackers!, ll pomfrat, 2 squid	1 steel:ead	3 stellhead	l mackerel shark, 3 pomfrat	2 steelhead, 8 jack mackerel, 3 pomfret	2 stoelhood, 3 jack mackerel	*****	2 pomíret	l steelhead, 1 jack mackerel, 5 pomfret	55 steelhd.,19 m. shark, 226 jack m., 378 pomfret, 32 misc.
1955 (Continu	Surface	temperature	54,0%.	54.0°F.	53.5°F.	54.0°F.	53.0°E.	53.5°F.	53.5°F.	53.0°F.	53.00F.	52.0°F.	51.0°P.	50.0%	50.5°P.	50.coF.	50.5°F.	50.5°F.	
Table 1 - Gill-net Catch Data M/V JOHN N. COBB Cruise 23 June 23 to September 18, 1955 (Continued)	Wind	and force 2/	Smis-4 - Sm-3	SM-3 - SM-2	HSW-L- W-L	77 11	SW-2 - W-3	H-12 - 18-5	SM-2 - WSW-3	SF-3 - 5F-1	n-3 - NM-4	NW-5	#S#-4 - #S#-5	SSW-4 - SSW-2	38-5 - SSE-5	SR-6	SE-5 - SE-4	SSE-3 - NW-6	
June 23	Total	Shlmon	23	45	168	6	78	23	147	36	15	147	82	37	16	7	15	장	21,81,
ruise 23 -		Chum	11	16	38	-1	n	8	97	36	11	146	75	35	15	2	21	경	124,8
0BB C1	caught	Pink	11	28	138	5	ğ	13	1	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	٥	0	639
JOHN N. C	Number of salmon caught	Silver	0	-	0	0		1	0	0	0	1	0	٥	-	0	0	0	211
W/V	Number	Red	1	0	α	0	0	0	0	٥	0	0	0	0	0	0	<u>~</u>	0	367
Catch Data		King	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~	0	0	0	0	0	19
Gill-net		of not	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	50,900
Teble 1 -	No. hours	soaked 1/	<del>\$</del> 99	10\$	26*	ক	₹6	용출	8	9	10\$	105	6	10,	tt	R.	26"	35	6517
	Position of set	Longitude W.	1380371	138042	136°39"	1360451	1369481	135°16"	1360521	139°17	137037"	1390231	14,1°22°	14,3°26'	1750301	11,5°28'	1/150/13:	141°25*	
	Positic	Latitude N.	56°181	161,995	56°181	56°18'	56°201	55°30"	55°11'	55°01°	166015	197015	570361	52025	57°16'	570171	26°00"	55011	
	i i	Lare	8/20	8/20 - 8/21	8/21 - 8/22	22/9	8/22 - 8/23	8/26 - 8/27	8/38 - 8/59	8/29 - 8/30	9/6 - 5/6	1/6 - 9/6	8/6 - 1/6	6/6 - 8/6	01/6 - 6/6	9/10	9/11 - 9/15	9/12 - 9/13	TOTALS
	Set	No.	35 3/	%	37	₹ 8%	35	oη	171	e#	772	4	45	97	177	1,8 2/	64	50	

		ABCZUGHYRA UR CON	I	:	8 rockfleh	:	;	•	8 rookfish	
	Surface	temperature	52° - 53°£.	50°P.	1,9°F.	ld.5°₽.	52.0°F.	50.0 F.		
Table la - 4roll Catch Date M/W JOHN N. COBB Cruise 23 June 23 to September 18, 1955	Wind	and force 2/	7-44	NW-L	#Ntv-5	WIW-3	W-5	NWE-3		
June 23 to	Total	salmoo	0	0	2	77	1	c,	25	
Cruise 23 -	ught	Pink	0	0	0	c	0	1	3	
N. COBB	Number salmon caught	Silver	0	0	7	12	1	1	18	
N JOHN 1	Numbe	King	0	0	-	0	0	0	1	
11 Catch Date M	Oepth	flethome)	92 - 17	4 - 61	4 - 35	4 - 25	4 - 25	7 - 23		
1a - 40	No.	fished	17	18	20	18	50	50		
Table	No.	fished	75	72	5	T\$	t.	275	83	
	Positico 4/	Longitude W.	1310421	135°39'	135°27*	1350421	136°091	137 03*		
	Post	Letitude N.	1,9929	520571	53°20"	54,051	55,224	56 1481		
		Oate	6/25	05/9	1/2	2/2	1/3	9/1	TOTALS	
		No.	1	c <sub>0</sub>	2	7	5	9		

1/ Does not include setting and hauling time.
2/ Wind force according to Beaufort scale.
3/ Daytime set.
!! Position given taken at start of trolling when porefule, otherwise at end.

Table 2.--Catch of salmon by species and mesh size(50 gill-net sets), John N. Cobb.

Total of 1,018 shackles fished	Average catch per shackle	• 02	•36	.21	.63	1.22	2.14
nesh kles	Catch per shackle	• 03	.23	.17	14.	.7h	1.58
6-inch mesh 78 shackles	Number salmon caught	2	18	13	32	58	123
mesh	Catch per shackle	*00	.22	.18	69*	1.34	2.45
54-inch mesh 565 shackles	Number Catch salmon per caught shack	ΤΤ	126	101	390	757	1385
n mesh ackles	Number Catch salmon per caught shackle	•05	.62	.37	98.	1.14	3.31
42-inch mesh 249 shackles	Number salmon caught	9	155	91	214	359	825
34-inch mesh 126 shackles	Catch per shackle	0	75.	.05	• 02	•59	1.20
34-inc	Number Catch salmon per caught shack	0	89	9	~	77	151
Percent	total	∞,	14.8	8.7.	25.7	50.2	100
Total	number	19	367	112	639	1248	2484
Species	of	King	Red	Silver	Pink	Chum	Totals

Table 3.--Depth at which salmon entered the gill nets, John N. Cobb

Species of salmon	Number of salmon observed	Upper 1,	Number a		in each por		at 3 meshes
King	19	Number 8	Percent 42	<u>Number</u> 5	Percent 26	Number 6	Percent 32
Red	318	126	40	70	22	122	38
Silver	193	113	59	30	15	50	26
Pink	596	348	58	126	21	122	21
Chum	1189	632	53	262	22	295	25
Totals	2315	1227	53	493	21	595	26

<sup>1/</sup> For various reasons, the above data were not recorded for 169 salmon in the total catch of 2,484.

Table 4.--Vitality of gill-net-caught salmon and number tagged,
John N. Cobb

Species of salmon	Numbers observed 1/	De	ad	A	ive	Tag	ged <u>2</u> /
King	19	Number 15	Percent 79	Number	Percent 21	Number 3	Percent 16
Red	367	211	57	156	43	72	20
Silver	205	156	76	49	24	36	18
Pink	635	507	80	128	20	66	10
Chum	1243	1010	81	233	19	134	11
Totals	2469	1899	77	570	23	311	13

<sup>1/</sup> Vitality of 15 salmon in the total catch was not recorded.

<sup>2/</sup> Only those live salmon which remained active in a live box for several minutes after capture were tagged. Many died shortly after being removed from the net. In addition to the 72 red salmon tagged, an additional 45 live reds, which could have been tagged, were saved for blood samples.

small advantage of the lower one-third over the middle one-third of the nets could be due to observational error and probably should not be considered significant.

# Vitality of gill-net caught salmon

Most of the salmon caught in the gill nets were dead when landed. Condition of the fish was directly related to the state of the sea. In rough weather many salmon had most of their scales removed by the chafing action of the nets, and the increased strain on the gear caused the nylon meshes to grip the fish more tightly, resulting in cuts and abrasions of the skin and flesh and often making it necessary to cut the mesh in order to release the fish without further damage.

From table 4 it may be seen that 77 percent of the salmon caught by the John N. Cobb were dead when landed. The percentage of reds alive was about twice that for any other species (43 percent as compared to the average of 23 percent). The reason for this apparent greater tenacity of life of the red salmon was not clear. They may struggle less in the nets; this was indicated by the observation that the reds in general were less de-scaled than the other species. Swimming habits might be responsible, if, for some reason, the reds entered the nets more often in the early morning just before the gear was hauled.

Of the total 23 percent of live gill-net-caught salmon 13 percent, or 311 fish, were tagged and released after being held for a while in a live box. Many others died shortly after being removed from the net. In addition to the 72 red salmon tagged, 45 live reds which could have been tagged were saved for blood samples. Seventeen silvers and two pinks caught trolling were tagged and released. The small number of tag returns from the gill-net-caught fish (3 returns reported to March 1956) is insufficient for any good indication of the number of tagged fish which survived.

## Seasonal composition of gill-net catches

Table 5 presents information on the composition of the John N. Cobb's salmon catches

during the several months of operation. The fishing effort was concentrated during July and August, and these two months produced the bulk of the catch. During July the catch per shackle was greatest. It should be remembered that the vessel moved over a wide area and that the species composition was undoubtedly affected by area fished in addition to time of fishing.

Reds were dominant in the small catch made during June, composing 53 percent of the total. Pinks and chums increased in July and August, and by September chums made up 95 percent of the catch. In July and early August when the catch of red salmon was highest, the fishing was mainly in the western Gulf and south of the Alaska Peninsula out to Dutch Harbor. The large catches of pinks and chums in late August and September were made in the eastern half of the Gulf of Alaska.

Three positions were fished a second time after a 2-month interval with identical amounts of gill nets. These stations were in the eastern Gulf of Alaska, on a line between Cape Spencer and Kodiak. They were fished first in early July (sets 9-11) and again in early September (sets 44-46), with good catches each time. Red and pink salmon, which were caught in fair numbers at each of these stations in July, disappeared entirely from the catches made in September. Almost the entire catch at all three stations in September was chum salmon. At two of the three stations the chum catch was greater in September than in July.

# Mitkof and Paragon

The Mitkof and Paragon operated mainly in the offshore waters south of the Aleutian Islands and Alaska Peninsula, with 26 gill-net stations by the Mitkof and 26 stations by the Paragon being completed, as shown in figure 13 and tables 6 and 7. The westernmost stations south of the outer Aleutian Island chain between 175° E. longitude and 175° W. longitude were fished by the Paragon, with one additional station being taken on the homeward trip to Seattle at station number 37 south of the central Gulf of Alaska. The Mitkof series of stations, east of, but overlapping, the rectangular fishing area of the Paragon, ranged from 175° W. longitude to

Table 5.--Species breakdown of salmon gill-net catches by month--June - September 1955, John N. Cobb

	ш	Percent	18	37	77	5.6	50
	Chum	Number	m	390	532	323	1,248
d:	nk	Percent	18	24	35	Н	26
th's cat	Pipk	Number	М	251	381	77	639
Number and percent for each month's catch	Silver	Percent	11	16	77	Н	8
cent for	Si	Number	2	164	171	77	211
r and per	Red	Percent	53	22	11	2	15
Numbe	R	Number	6	233	120	N	367
_	ng	Percent	0	٦	Н	Ч	1
	King	Number	0	80	89	М	19
Catch	shackle		0.141	2.59	2.31	2.12	2.44
Total number of	salmon		17	1,046	1,082	339	2,484
Month			June	July	August	September	Totals

Squid 20 \$ 77 65 13 195 1 Glant skilfish, 2 Jack mackerel 25 Ookfleh, 24 Jack mackerel, I Fake 7 Giant skilfish, 1 Mackeral shark Other fish 3 Otent skilfish I Giant skilfish h Hant skilfish 4 Olant skilfish 13 Squaretail 6 Squaretail Ponfret Inoidental oatoh 5 cu 'n Q 0 8 17 2 23 139 Slue shark σ Я 20 N 2 15 ⇉ 38 21 ∄ 18 244 Albacore Table 6 - Oill-nat Catch Oata --- M.V. MITMOF --- August 11 to October 5, 1955 2 3 18 ⊐ં Q 53 Steelhead S **\_** 24" Salmon catch by mesh eize 松 9 CI 9 **(-**-17 2 57 127 10 Q 23 0 ⇉ 55 2 18 큐 13 ï 18 7 Total 5 53 Ф 30 16 13 13 15 232 Sumber of salmon caught Ring ~ Silver \_ 12 13 Chum 12 N 76 31 16 -3 122 Rod R -7 9 10 Surface 61.8°F. 61.8°F. 59.9°F. 60.10F. 53.6°F. 51.5°F. 51. JoF. 50.1°F. 51.70F. 52.7°F. 55.3°F. 51.8°F. 52.9°F. 56.5°F. 59.4°F. 60.10F. 62.3°F. 50.0°F. 49.6°F. 50.2°F. 54.3°F. 60.9°F. 56.70F. No. hours out soaked 1/ 133 123 163 15% 213 Ä 113 13% 15% 窜 117 185 165 18 16 16 15 15 12 23 83 23 Caught in storm and drifted 43 miles NE from statioo Position of sot Latitude M. Longitude M. 15/10/151 155,00 135,001 1700031 169°561 1700071 175000 144, 521 165,001 165017 167035 169°52° 170013 170001 1750001 175°061 154,351 151,01,21 Note: 600 fathoms of net fished on all stations 165025 16507" 164°55' 164°57 129°52' 125°27' Does not include setting and hauling time TOTALS 1,00°04 100° B<sub>1</sub> 170,617 147057 1,05°141 45,28 1,60541 1,7056 1,50091 50000 50000 510031 50°05 1,7057 47057 1,80°081 17,000 1,00,00 45,000 14,059 50000 8/19 - 8/20 8/54 - 8/25 8/11 - 8/12 8/12 - 8/13 8/14 - 8/15 8/15 - 8/16 8/16 - 8/17 81/8 - 11/8 9/18 - B/19 8/20 - 8/21 8/21 - 8/22 8/22 - 8/23 8/23 - 8/24 8/25 - 8/26 9/21 - 9/22 9/22 - 9/23 4/23 - 9/24 9/24 - 9/25 9/27 - 9/28 1/01 - 05/6 10/2 - 10/3 41/9 - 51/8 10/4 - 10/5 9/2 - 9/3 7/6 - 8/6 1/6 - 7/6 Date Station No. 19 2/ 8 6 19 13 7 15 17 18 33 약 13 7 7 12 3 2 3 45

1.   1.   1.   1.   1.   1.   1.   1.				$\overline{}$	Ho, hours	_	*	Rumber of	salmoz	caught		Selmon	oatch by	यु	erje			Inolder	Incidental petch		
1,0,1,2,0,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,	Bo.	Date	Postti Latitude M.		soaksd 1/	burface temperature	-	├──	<del> </del>	$\vdash$	Total	54"	19	六	_	teelbead	Albacore	Blue shark	Pomfret	Other fish	5qu1d
4/13 - 4/14   135° co.   135° c	7	8/12 - 8/13	50,00	175000 ₩.	02	52.7°F.	30	11	1	n	53	71	21	50	7				77	1 Eandsaw	Present
19/12 - 9/15   16/20.0.   17/20.0.   17/20.0.   1.   1.   1.   1.   1.   1.   1.	2	8/13 - 8/14	*00,67	175000 ₩.	168	5449°F.	O.	15		-	17	00	5	7					8		
9/15 - 9/16   1470   1470   1450   1450   146   1450   146	3	8/14 - 8/15	1,8°00°	175°00' ₩.	15	56,8°F.	к)	00			11	80	1	0		1	,		112	1 Opah, 1 Mackerel shark	-
9/11 - 9/11   16/50x   1775/xv   11/4   61.77   61.77   6	-7	8/15 - 8/16	1700C+	175°00° W.	164	59.7°F.											80	27	ਨੀ		-
0,012 - 0,10   1,5° cov   1,17° cov   1,11° cov   1,	5	8/10 - 8/17	,00 <sub>0</sub> 9 <sup>t</sup> 7	175000 ₩.	16	60.3°F.		+	1	1		!		-			7	23	2		
6/15 - 6/20   1/5°00   1/7°00   1/7°00   1/1°00   6/3.9°0.   1/1°00   6/3.9°0.   1/1°00   6/3.9°0.   1/1°00	9	8/17 - 8/18	12,000	175°00' W.	144	61.1°F.											18	6			1
8   1,0   1,	1	8/18 - 8/19	1/2,00,	177030 ₩.	105	63.5°F.	ļ.	-				7					87				Present
9/40 - 9/21   10/500   177°00 E   114   66.4°F   114	80	8/19 - 8/20	45°00°	180,00	10	63.70F.											1	C)			
9/72 - 9/72   16/90;   179'00; E,   144   61,5°F;   144   61	6	8/20 - 8/21	145,000	177°30' E.	112	66.14°F.												1	3	127 Squaretail, limedeoral	
6/22 - 8/23   16/20;   179/20;   1.14   01.5°;   1.14   01.5	10	8/21 - 8/22	1,5000	175°00° E.	200	64,6°F.												~	-3		
6/25 - 6/2L         Lin <sup>2</sup> oor         113 <sup>2</sup> oor         98.3 <sup>2</sup> c.         113         98.3 <sup>2</sup> c.         99.2	11	8/22 - 8/23	160031	175°25' E.	भूग	61.5°F.			1					+	-			6	1		
6/6L = 6/25         Lig*Oct         175*Oct E.         164;         57.6°F.         1         31         31         31         31         31         32         2         2         2         2         2         2         2         2         2         2         2         3         4         4         4         4         4	12	8/23 - 8/24	7,7000	175°00' E.	13%	58.3°F.	,			1				-				6		1 Mackarel shark	
6/26 - 6/26         1/2° Cov.         1/1° Cov.	13	8/24 - 8/25	148°00°	175°00° B.	164	57.6°F.	1			-			,	1	+						-
6/26 - 6/27   50°00;   17°500; E,   11½   53,4%;   11   59   70   59   29   12   12   12   12   13,4%;   11   59   11   12   11   12   11   12   11   12   11   12   11   12   11   12   11   12	77	8/25 - 8/26	100,647	175°00' E.	165	54,9°F.		1				-	+				,		N.		
θ/εγ - θ/εθ         50° ων         117° δν ε         112°         51.3°F         11         59         70         29         29         12         121         69         59         12         121         121         69         59         12         121         121         121         69         59         12         121         121         121         69         56         22         12         121         69         56         22         121         121         69         56         22         121	15	8/26 - 8/27	50,001	175°00° E.	11,3	51.4°F.	7	33			귰	12	2	0					6		Present
9/2 - 9/3         50°00¹         180°00¹         114   50.5°F.         56   91   91   97   61   29   7   1         69   36   22   7   1         20   7   2         20   2         20   2         20   2	16	8/27 - 8/28	50,001	177°30° E.	27	51.3°F.	n	25			2	8	&	12					121	1 Mackersl shark	
9/1 - 9/7   48°00' 119°00'   622   52.2°°°   113   16.4°°   113   16.4°°   113   16.4°°   113   16.4°°   113   16.4°°   113   16.4°°   113   16.4°°   113	17	9/2 - 9/3	50,001	180,001	当	50.5°F.		111			127	\$	%	83					N	l Mackerel shark	Prosent
9/12 - 9/7   16°00°   180°00°   622   52.2°°°   113   161.4°°   14   15   15   15   15   15   15   15	18	9/3 - 9/4	100,67	180,001	172	50.5°F.	9	91			16	19	&	7	-	-	1		N	2 Olant skilfish	
$ 9/12 - 9/13 $ $ 9/26 - 9/13 $ $ 9/26 - 9/14 $ $ 19/26 \circ \circ$	61	1/6 - 1/6	1,00°001	180,00		52.2°F.		orl Ero	se in hea	BOS CAT	- Bo o	atoh		-	-						
9/13 - 9/14	&	9/12 - 9/13	50°00°	175°00° E.	113	LB.4°F.	7	33			37	35			N N				~		
9/11 - 9/15   μ <sup>0</sup> / <sub>1</sub> 3ε   17μ <sup>0</sup> / <sub>1</sub> 9ε E, 16ξ   52.μ <sup>0</sup> F,   3   3   3   3   3   3   4   4   1   1   1   1   1   1   1   1	58	9/13 - 9/14	100,67	174°55° E.	15	50.0°F.		17	-		177	3		3		-			7		Fresent
	27	9/17 - 9/15	47°38"	174°49° E.	164	52.7°F.		~			2	3							7		
9/18 - 5/19   41°00° 177°90° 8,   52.4°F.   30   20   20   20   20   20   20   20	92	9/15 - 9/16	47000	175°00° €.	154	53.6°F.		13			23	13						CV.	91	1 Mackeyel shark	
9/80 - 9/19   140°00' 177°00' 8.   112°2   50.2°Pe.   30   111   11   12   13   14   14   15   15   15   15   15   15	35	146 - 3/17	1,7000	177°30' E.	1714	52.4°F.		CV.			2	04							-1		Present
9/20 50°00' 175°00' N. 1/2°00' N.	8	61/5 - 81/6	100,877	177°30° ₩.	77	50.2°P.	1	R	,		30	88		~				1	2		
10/A = 10/5 51°00° 146°00° W, 49% 52.9°P. Note lost after two days = No ostoh 10/4 = 10/5 50°00° 146°00° W, 49% 60°P. Note lost after two days = No ostoh 10/4 = 10/5 50°00° 146°00° W, 49% 60°P. Note lost after two days = No ostoh 10/4 = 10/5 50°00° 146°00° W, 49% 60°P. Note lost after two days = No ostoh 10/4 = 10/5 50°00° 146°00° W, 49% 60°P. Note lost after two days = No ostoh 10/4 = 10/5 50°00° 146°00° W, 49% 60°P. Note lost after two days = No ostoh 10/4 = 10/5 50°00° 146°00° W, 49% 60°P. Note lost after two days = No ostoh 10/4 = 10/5 50°00° 146°00° W, 49% 60°P. Note lost after two days = No ostoh 10/4 = 10/5 50°00° 146°00° W, 49% 60°P. Note lost after two days = No ostoh 10/4 = 10/5 50°00° 146°00° W, 49% 60°P. Note lost after two days = No ostoh 10/4 = 10/5 50°00° 146°00° W, 49% 60°P. Note lost after two days = No ostoh 10/4 = 10/5 50°00° W, 40°P. Note lost after two days = No ostoh 10/4 = 10/5 50°00° W, 40°P. Note lost after two days = No ostoh 10/4 = 10/5 50°00° W, 40°P. Note lost after two days = No ostoh 10/4 = 10/5 50°00° W, 40°P. Note lost after two days = No ostoh 10/4 = 10/5 50°00° W, 40°P. Note lost after two days = No ostoh 10/4 = 10/5 50°00° W, 40°P. Note lost after two days = No ostoh 10/4 = 10/5 50°00° W, 40°P. Note lost after two days = No ostoh 10/4 = 10/5 50°00° W, 40°P. Note lost after two days = No ostoh 10/4 = 10/5 50°00° W, 40°P. Note lost after two days = No ostoh 10/4 = 10/5 50°00° W, 40°P. Note lost after two days = No ostoh 10/4 = 10/5 50°00° W, 40°P. Note lost after two days = No ostoh 10/4 = 10/5 50°00° W, 40°P. Note lost after two days = No ostoh 10/4 = 10/5 50°00° W, 40°P. Note lost after two days = No ostoh 10/4 = 10/5 50°00° W, 40°00° W, 40°0	33	02/6	20,001	175°00° 71.	The same	49.1°F.	3	77			17	ಸ	1	CV.							
10/4 - 10/5 50°00' 115°00' m. 49.8°P. Note inter two days - No outch  Totals  Totals	37	10/1 - 10/3	51,000	145000 ₩.	453	52.3°F.										-			N	Jack	Present
76 470 1 11 559 356 118 76 6 3 157 85	28	10/4 - 10/5	20,001	145°00° %.		49.8°F.	Note 1	out aft	er two da	V - W	o ostoh			1							
			TOTALS				-	1,70	7	11	558	$\vdash$	118	92	9	3	157	8,4	353		
V Does not include setting and hauling times	1/ Doe	se not include set	ting and haul	tor time																	

south of the western Gulf of Alaska, with 4 additional stations being fished along the 48° N. latitude line on the homeward journey. The fishing period for these two vessels extended from August 11, 1955 to October 5, 1955.

## Catch composition

The total salmon catch for the 11 stations where salmon were caught by the Mitkof was 232, an average of 21 salmon per set for 12 shackles of gill net. Individual catches ranged from 3 to 57 salmon. The seasonal catches by species were 122 reds, 94 chums, 13 silvers and 3 kings. No pinks were taken. Five steelhead were caught. The complete fishing log of the Mitkof showing the catches of salmon and other species of fish as well as other pertinent data is given in table 6.

The total salmon catch by the <u>Paragon</u> for the 14 stations where salmon were netted was 558, an average of 40 salmon per set. The catch per set ranged from 2 to 127 salmon. In all, 76 reds, 470 chums, 1 silver and 11 kings were taken. As with the <u>Mitkof</u>, no pinks were caught. Three steelhead were taken. The complete fishing log for the Paragon is given in table 7.

Chum salmon and red salmon formed the bulk of the salmon catches by the Mitkof and Paragon, as is demonstrated in tables 8 and 9. The Mitkof caught 52.6 percent reds, 40.5 percent chums, 5.6 percent silvers, 1.3 percent kings and no pinks. The Paragon caught 84.2 percent chums, 13.6 percent reds, 2 percent kings, 0.2 percent silvers and no pinks.

Tables 10 and 11 show the salmon catch by species for each of the mesh sizes fished both in total numbers and on a catch-per-shack-le basis. The 4-1/2-inch mesh was the most effective on the Mitkof, taking 3.32 salmon per shackle. On the Paragon the two most effective nets were the 4-1/2-inch mesh (4.21 salmon per shackle) and the 5-1/4-inch mesh (4.28 salmon per shackle). In the catch of all three vessels the 4-1/2-inch mesh was the most effective for taking salmon.

# Water temperature

Whereas the John N. Cobb fished throughout the Gulf of Alaska in waters where salmon
were present at every station, the Mitkof and
Paragon deliberately fished in more southerly
waters in and out of the warm Japanese current
to determine the southern range of the salmon.
Hence, salmon were taken only on the more
northerly stations by the latter two vessels.

On the more southerly stations, while salmon were not present, numbers of albacore were taken. A total of 210 albacore at 15 stations between 45° N. latitude and 48° N. latitude were taken by the two vessels. Also, blue sharks were usually caught along with albacore.

The relation of surface water temperature to numbers of salmon and albacore caught by the two vessels is demonstrated in figure 14. The extreme range of water temperatures where salmon were caught was from 48.4° F. to 56.8° F. On the other hand, water temperatures ranged from 53.6° F. to 63.7° F. where albacore were taken. Salmon and albacore were taken in the same net haul only once--at station 26 of the Paragon. The general trend shown in figure 14 is U-shaped, with the greater catches of salmon occurring in the colder waters, small catches or no catches of salmon and albacore at intermediate temperatures, and the greater catches of albacore in the warmer waters.

The surface water temperatures at the 50 John N. Cobb fishing stations ranged from 48.3° F. to 54.0° F. with salmon taken at all stations and no albacore taken at any station.

A series of sets (stations 12-14) by the Paragon along the 175° E. longitude line made between August 24 and August 26, 1955 was repeated in mid-September (stations 26-28) when the water temperature had cooled 4.7° F. to 4.9° F. at each station. On the initial run no salmon were taken, but on the later run salmon were caught at all three stations. This phenomenon indicates that the salmon tend to increase their geographic range in a southerly direction as the warm Japanese current is restricted southward.

After the main fishing cruises of the Mitkof and Paragon were completed, a short additional cruise was made south along the North

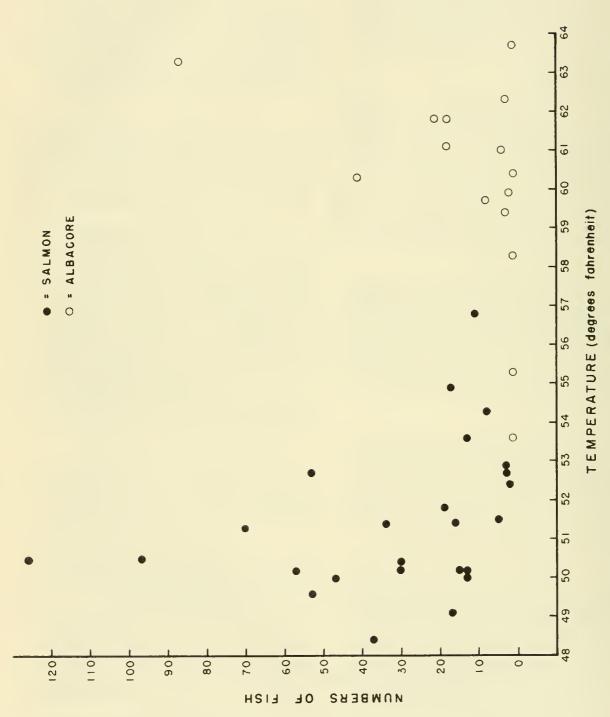


Figure 14.--Relation of surface water temperature to salmon and albacore in the combined Mitkof and Paragon catches.

Table 8.--Composition of salmon gill-net catches (total for ll sets), <a href="Mitkof">Mitkof</a>

Species	Number caught	Percent of total catch		
King	3	1.3		
Red	122	52.6		
Silver 1/	13	5.6		
Pink	0	0.0		
Chum	94	40.5		
Totals	232	100.0		

<sup>1/</sup> All but one of the 13 silvers were caught station 46 off Cape Flattery.

Table 9.--Composition of salmon gill-net catches (total for 14 sets), Paragon

Species	Number caught	Percent of total catch
King	11	2.0
Red	76	13.6
Silver	1	•2
Pink	0	0.0
Chum	470	84.2
Totals	558	100.0

Table 10. -- Catch of salmon in the various size gill nets, Mitkof 1/

ı	ı		ı					
$5\frac{1}{4}$ -inch mesh	Catch	shackle	£0°	.68	.18	Q.	• 65	1.54
	Number shackles	fished	99	99	99	99	99	99
	Number salmon	caught	2	45	12	0	43	102
sh	Catch per	shackle	.05	1.77	. 05	0	3-175	3.32
12-inch mesh	Number shackles	fished	22	22	22	22	22	22
	Number salmon	caught	Н	39	Н	0	32	73
sh	Catch	shackle	0	1.73	0	0	.86	2.59
34-inch mesh	Number shackles	fished	22	22	22	22	22	22
	Number salmon	caught	0	38	0	0	19	57
	Species of	salmon	King	Red	Silver	Pink	Chum	Totals

Total catch including all species------232 Total number of 50-fathom shackles fished.....ll0 Average catch of salmon per shackle------2.11

No salmon caught in  $2\frac{1}{4}$ -inch Includes only those sets where salmon were caught. mesh nets. 7

Table 11. -- Catch of salmon in the various size gill nets, Paragon  $\frac{1}{2}/$ 

- C	Catch per shackle	0.11	.18	.01	0	3.98	4.28
54 -inch mesh	Number Number salmon shackles caught fished	81,	81,	81,4	78	178	81,
17V	Number salmon caught	6	15	٦	0	334	359
th di	Catch Number per salmon shackle caught	70.	.71	0	0	3.46	4.21
اجاً-jnch mesh	Number Number salmon shackles caught fished	28	28	28	28	28	28
14 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	Number salmon caught	П	20	0	0	26	118
mesh	Catch per shackle	70.	1.29	0	0	1.36	2.69
34-inch mesh	Number Number salmon shackles caught fished	28	28	28	28	28	28
	Number salmon caught	٢	36	0	0	38	75
sh	Catch per shackle	0	.18	0	0	70.	.22
24-inch mesh	Number shackles fished	28	28	28	28	28	28
	Number salmon caught	0	77	0	0	П	9
	Species of salmon	King	Red	Silver	Pink	Chum	Totals

-----558 Total salmon catch including all species Total number of 50-fathom shackles fished Average catch of salmon per shackle

1/ Includes only those sets where salmon were caught.

American coastline by the Mitkof. No salmon were caught at three stations off Cape Bianco, Oregon, and 2 silvers and 1 king were taken at two stations off the mouth of the Columbia River.

#### LENGTH FREQUENCIES

In figure 16 the fork lengths of 1,052 salmon (all species) caught by the John N. Cobb are shown in frequency distributions according to mesh size. Similarly the length frequencies of all salmon caught by the Mitkof and Paragon are graphed in figures 17 and 18, respectively.

The various mesh sizes were selective for particular size ranges of salmon, but considerable overlapping of the size distribution of salmon occurred in the catches of the different nets. The sizes of fish taken by each mesh were in part dependent on the sizes of fish available to the nets, and the length frequencies which are shown represent size selectivity over a wide range of area and time.

In figure 19 the fork lengths of all salmon caught by the <u>Cobb</u> during the entire season segregated according to species are shown. Likewise, the seasonal length frequencies of each species of salmon taken by the <u>Mitkof</u> and Paragon are given in figures 20 and  $\overline{21}$ , respectively.

These length-frequency data along with age readings from the scales and with the size and development of the ovaries and testes are being analyzed for a later report. The complete morphological and physiological racial analyses of the ocean catches of the three research vessels will aid in evaluating the extent of intermingling of North American and Asian stocks of salmon.

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371, vol. 16, no. 5, May 1954,
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Figure 15.--This group of red salmon illustrates the size range of fish taken in one gill-net set by the John N. Cobb.

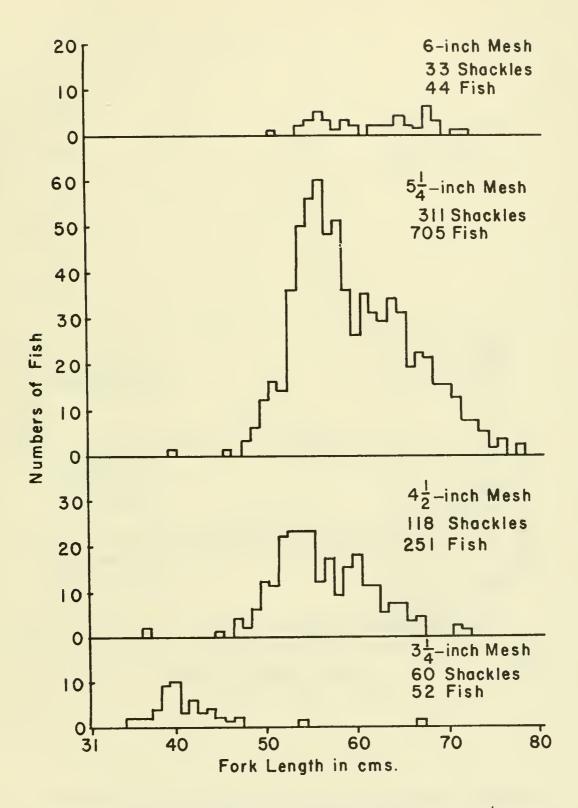


Figure 16.--Length frequency distribution of 1,052 salmon (combined species) taken by each mesh size, John N. Cobb.

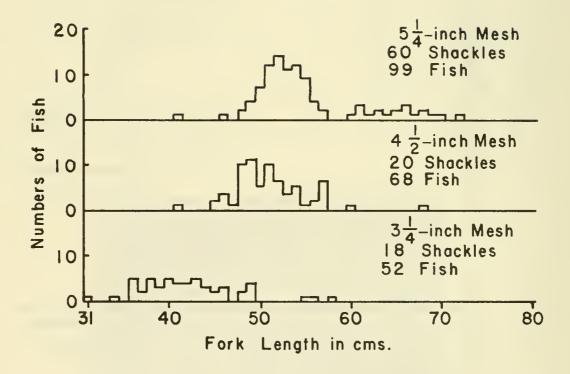


Figure 17.--Length frequency distribution of salmon (combined species) taken by each mesh size, Mitkof.

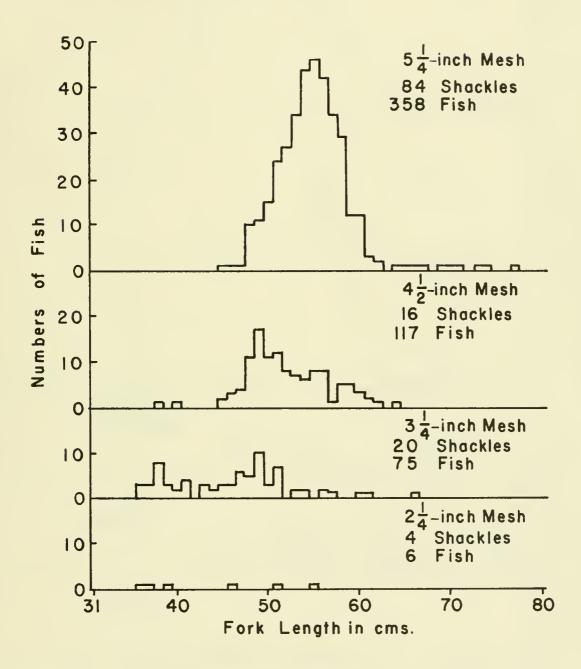


Figure 18.--Length frequency distribution of salmon (combined species) taken by each mesh size, <a href="Paragon">Paragon</a>.

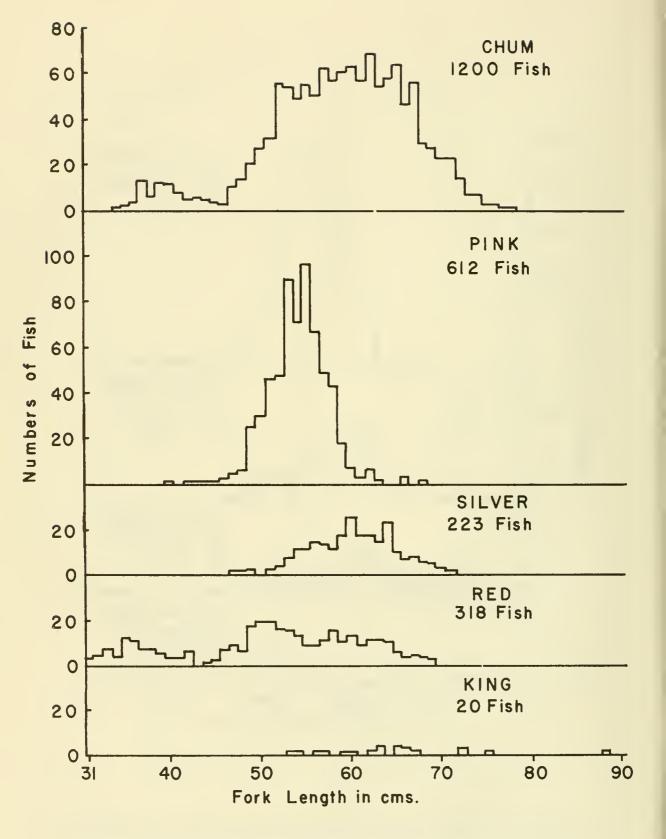


Figure 19.--Length frequency distribution of each species of salmon, John N. Cobb.

28

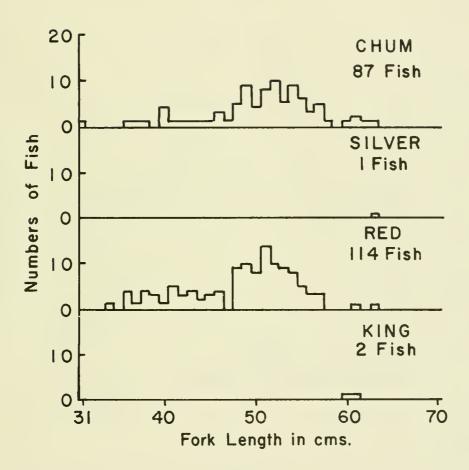


Figure 20.--Length frequency distribution of each species of salmon,

Mitkof (catch at station 46, off Cape Flattery, is not included).

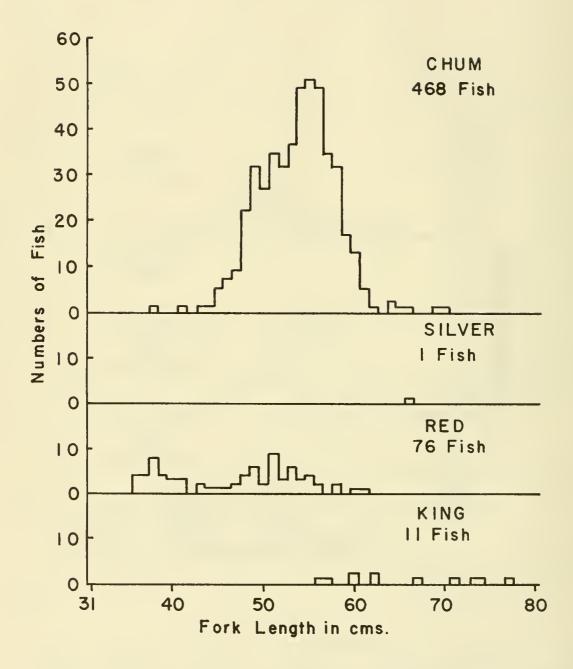


Figure 21.--Length frequency distribution of each species of salmon,  $$\underline{\text{Paragon}}$.$ 



